ISSN (print) 0093-4666 © 2010. Mycotaxon, Ltd. ISSN (online) 2154-8889

MYCOTAXON

DOI: 10.5248/113.327

Volume 113, pp. 327–329 *July–September 2010*

Athelopsis parvispora (*Basidiomycetes*), a new species from India

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Abstract – A new corticioid species, *Athelopsis parvispora,* is described from Manali hills in Himachal Pradesh.

Key words – Kullu, Gulaba, stalked basidia

While conducting the fungal forays in the oak forest in Gulaba area of Manali hills district Kullu of Himachal Pradesh, India, Avneet and Dhingra collected a corticioid specimen on a stump of *Quercus incana*. After detailed macroscopic and microscopic comparisons with descriptions of known species of genus *Athelopsis* (Jülich 1971, Eriksson & Ryvarden 1973, Hjortstam 1991, Kotiranta & Saarenoksa 2005), it was found to be close to *Athelopsis subinconspicua* (Litsch.) Jülich. Characters in common were thin, pellicular basidiocarps with smooth hymenial surface and clavate, basally stalked basidia, but the basidiospores in the newly described species differed in being narrowly ellipsoid and smaller (4.3–4.7 × 1.5–1.9 µm) compared to the more broadly ellipsoid and larger (6.5–8 × 4–4.5 µm) spores in *A. subinconspicua*. This suggests that this new finding represents a species of its own.

Athelopsis parvispora Avneet P. Singh, Dhingra & J. Kaur, **sp. nov.** Figs 1–4

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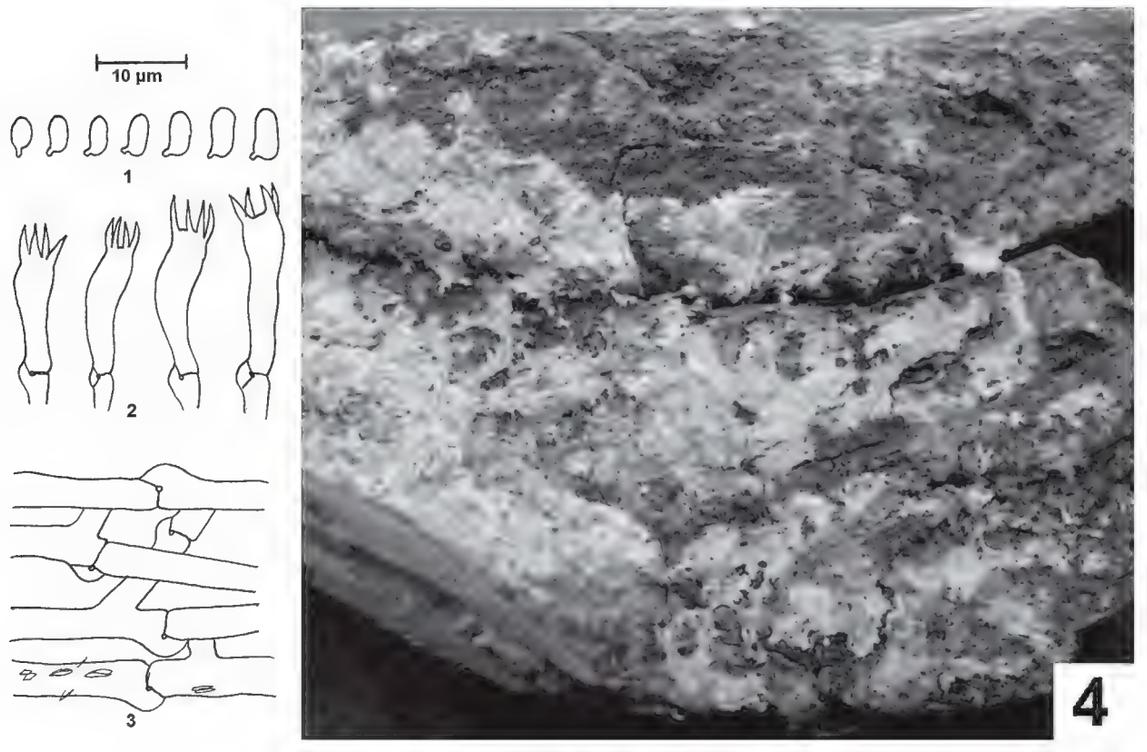
Basidiocarpum resupinatum, adnatum, effusum, ad 160 µm crassum, pelliculosum; hymenium laevigatum flavescens; systema hyphale monomiticum; hyphae ad 3.1 µm latae, nodoso-septatae; hyphae basales crassitunicatae, incrustatae; subhymenial hyphae tenuitunicatae, non incrustae; basidia 10.9–16 × 3.0–3.9 µm, clavata, stipitata, 4-sterigmata, ad basin fibuligera; basidiosporae 4.3–4.7 × 1.5–1.9 µm, auguste ellipsoideae, tenuitunicatae.

Type: India, Himachal Pradesh: Kullu, Gulaba, on the way to Rohtang, on *Quercus incana* wood, Avneet 3578 (PUN, **holotype**), September 10, 2004.

Etymology: The epithet refers to small basidiospores.

Basidiocarps resupinate, adnate, effused, up to 160 µm thick in section, thin, pellicular, almost athelioid; hymenial surface smooth, pale yellowish; margins indeterminately thinning. Hyphal system monomitic; generative hyphae up to 3.1 µm wide, branched, septate, clamped; basal hyphae somewhat thick-walled, encrusted; subhymenial hyphae thin-walled, without encrustation. Basidia 10.9–16 × 3.0–3.9 µm, clavate, basally stalked, 4-sterigmate, with a basal clamp; sterigmata up to 4.3 µm long. Basidiospores 4.3–4.7 × 1.5–1.9 µm, narrowly ellipsoid, thin-walled, smooth, inamyloid, acyanophilous.



Figs 1–4. *Athelopsis parvispora.*
Figs 1–3. Microscopic structures: 1. Basidiospores; 2. Basidia; 3. Generative hyphae.
Fig. 4. Basidiocarp showing hymenial surface.

Acknowledgements

Authors thank Prof. Nils Hallenberg (Gothenburg, Sweden) for valuable suggestions and peer review; Prof. B.M. Sharma, Department of Plant Pathology, COA, CSKHPAU, Palampur, H.P., India for peer review; Head of Department of Botany, Punjabi University Patiala for providing infrastructure; and UGC DRS-SAP – II for financial assistance.

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